

**To:** Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]; Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]; Jenkins, Laura Flynn[Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov]; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa[Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov]  
**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Tue 8/11/2015 4:42:08 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Animas Q&As

I pulled this from the statement.

EPA has also taken steps to capture and treat the discharge at the Gold King mine, addressing the risk of additional downstream impacts. We have constructed four ponds at the mine site and which are treating water by lowering acidity levels and removing dissolved metals. This system is discharging treated water to Cement Creek at levels cleaner (higher pH and lower levels of metals) than pre-event, background conditions in the creek. Over the next several days, EPA will make upgrades to the system to ensure its continued operation.

I don't know the press process though. Leaving this in press team's hands.

Rebecca A. Russo

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**From:** Smith, Paula  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 7:02 PM  
**To:** Mylott, Richard; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Davis, Tim; Russo, Rebecca  
**Subject:** FW: Animas Q&As

Can someone please respond ? Then let's begin posting these Q&As on web. Will make it so much easier to respond to reporters who keep asking the same questions. And then we can update as we know more. (And of course, new Q&As will need to be vetted.) Rebecca should be getting some good ones on the daily calls- already vetted if we're providing answers to congressionals and media. Attached are the vetted Q&As to date. Can post these.

**- Paula**

**From:** Olivier Uyttebrouck [mailto:[olivier@abqjournal.com](mailto:olivier@abqjournal.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 3:54 PM  
**To:** Smith, Paula  
**Subject:** Animas

Paula:

I heard the press conference today but I didn't have a chance to ask a question.

Is contaminated water still being discharged from the King Mine?

Ron Curry said that five New Mexico water systems have been closed. What are the five systems?

Is there any precedent for this kind of a spill; any previous spills of this magnitude?

Thanks,

Olivier Uyttebrouck

Albuquerque Journal

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